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World Wide Fund For
Nature

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Appointment of an independent Service Provider to develop an Endangered, Threatened and Protected species management strategy aimed at minimizing potential risk to marine species within the Saldanha Bay Aquaculture Development Zone linked to the Saldanha Bay Rope Grown Mussel fishery.

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1. Background

The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) is one of the world's largest and most respected independent conservation organizations with almost 6 million supporters and a global network active in over 100 countries. WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the earth's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by conserving the world's biological diversity, ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable, and promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption.

WWF South Africa (WWF-SA) is a national office that is part of the global WWF network. We are a local Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) that for more than 50 years has worked towards the aim of inspiring all South Africans to live in harmony with nature, for the benefit of our country and the well-being of all our people.

WWF-SA looks to, inter alia, raise awareness of key environmental issues and mobilizing consumer action through communications and campaign partnerships. In so doing promoting sustainable consumption and products, and actions that safeguard important ecosystems and endangered species.

2. Introduction

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Fish For Good is a Project Pre-Assessment (PPA) funded by the Dutch Postcode Lottery, administered by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) and with WWF-SA as the implementing partner in the project. The Fish For Good Project aims are to contribute to the building of fisheries sustainability infrastructure in South Africa, Indonesia and Mexico to improve environmental sustainability and bring about socio-economic benefits for fishing communities.

The project uses the Project Pre-Assessment model involving a country-specific analysis of fisheries and recently aquaculture as a way of introducing the MSC programme to small-scale fisheries, and coastal fishers. The MSC has shown that its fishery certification and eco-labelling programme can drive improvements amongst fisheries leading to healthier oceans by leveraging market incentives on offer by the MSC programme.

PPAs are divided into three key stages; 1) mapping and selection of fisheries for pre-assessment, 2) pre-assessment of selected fisheries and 3) development and implementation of improvement action plans through Fishery Improvement Projects (FIPs).

So far in South Africa, the Fish For Good Project has mapped fifteen (15) fisheries, conducted nine (9) pre-assessments and selected five (5) fisheries to go for development of action plans and implementation through FIPs. One of the fisheries chosen for the FIP stage is the Rope Grown Mussels fishery within Saldanha Bay Aquaculture Development Zone.

FIPs are considered a key tool for a stepwise approach to achieving focused targets, especially as it relates to priority species and fishery sectors. Along the way to addressing deficiencies in the fishery, FIPs are useful tools for bringing stakeholders together to: improve overall fishing practices; enhance the management of the fishery; establish critical partnerships; generate community support to inspire change in other fisheries in South Africa, and improve the accessibility of the MSC standard in South Africa and other countries in the global South. WWF-SA, through the Fish For Good Project, brings together a wide range of fishery stakeholders to collaborate to improve fishing practices and management to enable the Rope Grown Mussel fishery to reach a level consistent with an unconditional pass against the MSC standard.

An Aquaculture Development Zone (ADZ) is an area that has been earmarked specifically for aquaculture activities with the purpose of encouraging investor and consumer confidence, creating incentives for industry development, to provide marine aquaculture services, manage the risks associated with aquaculture, as well as to provide skills development and employment for coastal communities. The development of ADZs supports the Policy for the Development of a Sustainable Marine Aquaculture sector in South Africa (2007) objective aimed at creating an enabling environment that will promote growth and sustainability of the marine aquaculture sector in South Africa, as well as to enhance the industry's contribution to economic growth.

Saldanha Bay is the primary area for bivalve production in South Africa, with the majority of oyster and mussel production to date originating there. As a result of improved opportunities for local mussel import substitution, opening of export markets for oysters, and improved access to water and land space through Operation Phakisa, there is a renewed interest in expanding and fully utilizing the bay for further oyster and mussel production, as well as exploring potential finfish production in the future.



The then Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF now DFFE) undertook an Environmental Impact Assessment for the establishment of an Aquaculture Development Zone in Saldanha Bay in 2016/2017 and Environmental Authorisation (EA) was granted on the 8th January 2018. Appeals against the authorisation were lodged to the then Minister of Environmental Affairs and the authorisation was upheld as per the letter dated 7th June 2018. The ADZ has been implemented since 2019 and continues to expand.

The Saldanha Bay Rope Grown Mussel FIP which falls inside the above-mentioned ADZ aims to deliver the following:

- The appointed service provider is to develop an **Endangered, Threatened, and Protected species (ETP) management strategy** for all active bivalve production sites within the Saldanha Bay Aquaculture Development Zone (ADZ) for the following precincts: Small Bay precinct, Big Bay, Outer Bay North and Outer Bay South. The recommendations from the strategy are to be included in the site-specific Environmental Management Programmes (EMPrs) for existing farms to ensure that the mitigations are implemented on a farm level. This is to be coupled with the development of detailed ETP mitigation procedures (if required) and progress of the findings will be included in the DFFE Annual yearbook by the DFFE. It should be noted that this work is closely related to work commissioned by the DFFE regarding visual surveys of the presence or absence of ETP species (as per the Endangered, Threatened and Protected species lists) which is recorded in an existing excel spread sheet template with accompanying ID cards and information booklets which have already been developed and are being implemented. Visual surveys are to be conducted every eight (8) weeks within the four precincts of the ADZ from a boat, during the servicing of the bottom moored instruments. The operators themselves also report on their sightings and the data is combined into a database of information from which the data is summarized into text and findings to be reported in the Quarterly Environmental reporting for the ADZ as well as is to be recorded in the DFFE Annual Yearbook. Species identification to be facilitated using existing species ID cards reference material, templates for species counts.

3. Annexure 1: TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Rope Grown Mussel fishery improvement project is part of the Fish for Good project and In-Transition to Marine Stewardships Council ("MSC") program funded by the MSC's ocean stewardship fund. The ocean stewardship fund aims to increase the number of sustainable fisheries worldwide by funding innovative research and supporting fisheries at all stages on the path to sustainability.

One of the key aims of the Rope Grown Mussel FIP is to devise an Endangered, Threatened and Protected (ETP) species management strategy for the Saldanha Bay ADZ operations aimed at minimizing impacts of the aquaculture industry on these ETP species, promoting sustainable fishing practices. Enabling the subsequent regular monitoring to mitigate the potential impacts of mussel farms on the ecosystem in Saldanha Bay.

3.1.Scope of work

The consultant will be responsible for the following tasks and outputs:

	Task required	Output
3.1.1.	Identify ETP species that are likely to be encountered by the fishery within the Saldanha Bay ADZ: i. A review of existing literature and consultations will be conducted to identify the ETP species that are likely to be encountered by the fishery.	A literature review on ETP species interactions with all Bivalve production sites.
3.1.2.	Assess potential impacts of the fishery on ETP species: i. A risk assessment will be conducted to assess the potential impacts of the fishery on ETP species. This assessment will consider the biology of the ETP species, the distribution of the ETP species in the ADZ, and the fishing gear and practices used by the fishery. ii. A desktop survey to examine practices in other countries for managing interactions between ETP species and aquaculture operations.	A risk assessment report outlining the ETP species management strategy.
3.1.3.	Refine ETP species data capture methods and assist in the development of ETP species database for reporting purposes.	Development of a cohesive ETP species data capture protocol for DFFE and farm operators, supported by a database to aid analysis and reporting of ETP interactions.



3.1.4.	Develop mitigation measures: Based on the risk assessment, mitigation measures will be developed to avoid, mitigate, or compensate for any adverse impacts on ETP species. These measures may include gear modifications, fishing practices, and observer programs.	Develop mitigation measures in collaboration with ADZ ECO to ensure that the strategy is implemented within the ADZ.
3.1.5.	Test and review mitigation measures: The mitigation measures will be implemented by the fishery industry. The government will provide support and oversight to ensure that the measures are implemented effectively, mitigations are to be reviewed one year after implementation.	Collaboration with ADZ ECO to ensure implementation of the mitigation measures.
3.1.6.	Develop a clear and concise monitoring and evaluation framework: The effectiveness of the ETP species management strategy will be monitored and evaluated through a comprehensive monitoring program developed. The results of the monitoring program will be used to review and update the strategy as needed.	Clear, concise, and user-friendly, M&E framework in a workable format, outlining the frameworks indicators, their definitions, the baseline and target values.
3.1.7.	Presentation of report at the AMC and the CF meetings: The final reports are to be presented at the AMC and CF meetings to all stakeholders, affected and interested parties.	Presentation of all results and reports at the AMC and CF meetings once the reports have been finalised.

- 3.2. Report submission: reports should be submitted on a company letterhead and should be signed by the author and should ideally include the following sections but are not limited to the following:
- Declaration of Independence;
 - Introduction;
 - Terms of Reference;
 - Methodology;
 - Findings; and
 - Conclusions and Recommendations.
- 3.3. The appointed service provider must comply with the following:
- Be independent and demonstrate expertise and knowledge in environmental and marine monitoring, aquaculture experience and scientific report writing.
 - Demonstrate knowledge in marine environmental monitoring and aquaculture required to draft and undertake the reports listed above or be supported by a team with the required skills.
 - Have a minimum of a Master's degree in a relevant field, such as marine and coastal management, ocean governance, environmental science, Aquaculture, sustainable blue economy or marine policy.
 - At least five years of work experience in the field of marine science, ocean management, ocean governance, sustainable development and fisheries management.
 - Comply with applicable legal requirements; and
 - Be registered with the relevant scientific and professional organisations in their field of expertise.
 - Strong analytical and writing skills.
- 3.4. Additional information required for proposal
- A breakdown of the hourly tariff exclusive of value-added tax for services rendered. Expenditure incurred without the prior approval of the Project manager will not be reimbursed.
 - In so far as possible, a comprehensive budget, showing the charge out rates of all the staff to be involved in investigations and including all other costs factors.
 - Please ensure that all cost items are charged as per deliverables.

4. Conditions

- 4.1 The service provider must provide detailed pricing schedule.
- 4.1.1 The service provider must quote set fees in South African Rand (Inclusive of VAT)
- 4.1.2 The service provider will be paid through the WWF-SA payments system upon satisfactory delivery of deliverables, progress reporting and invoicing.



4.2 Proposal must be accompanied by:

- a) Names and brief CV's of the service provider and/or team.
- b) Brief (2 page) motivation explaining why the team/individuals are best suited to undertake the work.
- c) Brief description of previous relevant work/projects undertaken with references.
- d) Confirmation of availability in accordance to specified time frame.
- e) Bank confirmation letter
- f) BBBE Certificate
- g) Contact information (Physical address, e-mail telephone)
- h) VAT number and VAT letter (if applicable)

4.3 The Curriculum Vitae and accreditation of the staff who will be available for the duration of the work;

4.4 The service provider shall under no circumstances commence with the project work without first signing an agreement.

5. Additional information required for proposal

5.1 A breakdown of the hourly tariff exclusive of value-added tax for services rendered. Expenditure incurred without the prior approval of the Project manager will not be reimbursed.

5.2 In so far as possible, a comprehensive budget, showing the charge out rates of all the staff to be involved in investigations and also including all other costs factors.

5.3 WWF-SA will not be held responsible for any costs incurred by the applicant in the preparation and submission of the proposals.

5.4 WWF-SA reserves the right not to renegotiate the proposal price of the appointee.

5.5 Travelling costs and time spent or incurred between home and office of consultants and the WWF-SA head office will not be for the account of WWF-SA.

6. Reports and payment

6.1 Applicants are required to submit a project plan of action of all deliverables detailing the cost of the services. Prices quoted must be VAT Inclusive.

6.2 The price must remain firm for the duration of the contract.

6.3 The Project Coordinator and the Service Provider will meet every month for progress update meetings in Cape Town and where possible teleconference calls/virtual meetings will be negotiated.

7. Contact person for enquiries

Quotation should be sent to Phillip Tjale, email ptjale@wwf.org.za. Please quote the project name on the quotation/proposal